

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 038249
ORIGIN SS-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /016 R

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DRAFTED BY INR/DDC-RICHARD H. ZORN:SW EXT 29033 2/17/77
APPROVED BY INR/DDC-WILLIAM MCAFEE
EUR/SE-R.WOOD
S/S-O:RPERITO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USEUCOM VAIHIGEN GERMANY

S E C R E T STATE 038249

EXDIS MILITARY ADDEES HALDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

FOLLOWING REPEAT STOCKHOLM 0526 ACTION SECSTATE
INFO LONDON MOSCOW 04 FEB 77

QUOTE

S E C R E T STOCKHOLM 0526

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS DOD WASHDC, USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GERMANY IMMEDIATE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINR, SW, US
SUBJECT: REPLY TO SWEDISH GOVERNMENT ON INCIDENTS INVOLVING
US MILITARY AIRCRAFT

REF: (A) STATE 024230, (B) STATE 024231, (C) STOCKHOLM 0272,
(D) STOCKHOLM 0184

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1. I CONVEYED TODAY USG RESPONSE TO LETTER DATED DECEMBER 28,
1976 FROM SWEDISH BOARD OF CIVIL AVIATION. MY LETTER TO THE BOARD
WAS BASED ON PARAS 2, 3, AND 5 OF REF A AND WAS SENT THROUGH THE
MFA, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DESIRE OF MFA POLITICAL DIRECTOR
LEIFLAND THAT ALL EMBASSY COMMUNICATIONS ON THIS CASE BE THROUGH
HIS OFFICE.

2. EMBASSY WISHES TO POINT OUT THAT WHILE SUBSEQUENT EVENTS (PARTICULARLY THE CRASH OF A SWEDISH PASSENGER AIRCRAFT NEAR STOCKHOLM ON JANUARY 15) HAVE REMOVED PUBLIC AND MEDIA COMMENTARY ON THE JANUARY 5 INCIDENT FROM THE NEWS, SWEDISH AUTHORITIES ARE NOT REPEAT NOT DROPPING THE MATTER, AS INDICATED IN LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 2 OF REF B. THE COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY APPOINTED TO LOOK INTO THE SEPTEMBER AND JANUARY INCIDENTS INVOLVING US MILITARY AIRCRAFT REMAINS RESPONSIBLE FOR SUBMITTING AN OFFICIAL REPORT ON ITS FINDINGS AND, AS POINTED OUT IN REF C, FOREIGN MINISTER SODER ASSURED THE RIKSDAG ON JANUARY 19 THAT THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT WOULD BE ISSUED WHEN COMPLETED. IN EMBASSY'S OPINION, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT RIKSDAG MEMBER C.H. HERMANSSON, FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE SWEDISH COMMUNIST PARTY, WILL PERMIT THE COMMITTEE'S REPORT TO BE FORGOTTEN.

3. THE EMBASSY WOULD ALSO DRAW THE ATTENTION OF ADDRESSES TO PARA 4 OF REF A AND PARA 4 OF REB B CONCERNING THE SOVIET COMPLAINT OF A SECOND NEAR MISS INCIDENT ON JANUARY 5 INVOLVING THE SAME RC-135 AIRCRAFT AND ANOTHER AEROFLOT AIRCRAFT. THE SECOND CROSSING, AS INDICATED IN REF D, OCCURRED APPROXIMATELY ONE HOUR AFTER THE FIRST, VERY NEAR IF NOT EXACTLY ON THE BOUNDARY OF SWEDISH-CONTROLLED AIR SPACE. THE RADAR SCOPE FILMS SEEN BY SWEDISH DEFENSE STAFF OFFICIALS AND THE EMBASSY'S AIR ATTACHE SHOW THE RC-135 AIRCRAFT IN THIS INSTANCE PASSING EXTREMELY CLOSELY BEHIND THE SOVIET AIRLINER. WHILE THESE FILMS ARE CERTAINLY SUBJECT TO VARIOUS INTERPRETATIONS, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE THEY DO NOT
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INDICATE VERTICAL SEPARATION, THERE IS NO DOUBT WITHIN THE SWEDISH DEFENSE STAFF THAT THE TWO AIRCRAFT PASSED VERY SUBSTANTIALLY CLOSER TO EACH OTHER THAN THE FIVE NAUTICAL MILE SEPARATION DESCRIBED BY THE RC-135 AIRCREW. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES AND BECAUSE SWEDISH DEFENSE OFFICIALS ARE PROBABLY WILLING TO TESTIFY OTHERWISE, THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT THE BETTER COURSE NOT TO INDICATE THE FIVE NAUTICAL MILE SEPARATION TO SWEDISH AUTHORITIES AND WILL NOT UNLESS SO INSTRUCTED.
SMITH.
UNQUOTE HARTMAN.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ALLEGATIONS, AIRSPACE VIOLATIONS, OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE038249
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: RICHARD H. ZORN:SW EXT 29033 2/17/77
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770059-0386
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770225/aaaaawoe.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 9466f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 24230, 77 STATE 24231, 77 STOCKHOLM 272, 77 STOCKHOLM 184
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3277084
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPLY TO SWEDISH GOVERNMENT ON INCIDENTS INVOLVING US MILITARY AIRCRAFT
TAGS: PINR, MOPS, SW, US
To: USEUCOM VAIHIGEN GERMANY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/9466f2c3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009